Canadian Film Weekly
VOICE of the CANADIAN MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY

Vol. 10, No. 25 TORONTO, JUNE 20, 1945 $2.00 Per Annum

Chas. Chaplin in UA Top Spot

Golf Tournament Tickets Ready

Chris George of Owen Sound was the first Ontario theatre man to obtain a ticket to the annual Canadian Motion Picture Golf Championships, to be held at Oakdale Golf and Country Club, Weston, Ontario, on June 26th. The next entry was made

(Continued on Page 2)

Shea's Victoria Awaits Permit

Another 1500 seats will be added to downtown Toronto seating when a permit is obtained by Famous Players for the reopening of the Victoria Theatre, Toronto, located at Victoria and Richmond streets, directly across from the Tivoli, an FPCC unit.

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Montreal Mgr. Succeeds Late A. J. Jeffery

Charles S. Chaplin, Montreal branch manager of United Artists, has been named head of its Canadian division, filling the post made vacant by the recent death of Albert J. Jeffery in Toronto. Chaplin will be succeeded in Montreal by George Heiber, Saint John branch manager, and Sam Kunitzky, Montreal salesman, will take Heiber's spot.

The appointment brings Chaplin back to his home town, Toronto, in which is located the Canadian head office of the company. He joined United Artists in January, 1930, as a clerk in the Toronto office. In 1935 he became office manager of the Saint John branch and in January, 1936, was

(Continued on Page 2)

20th Centheatres Meets June 25-6

Annual convention of Twentieth Century Theatres, 53-house Ontario chain, will take place at the King Edward Hotel, Toronto, on June 25th and 26th. Part of the proceedings will be devoted to the celebration of the company's tenth anniversary.

The first day will be devoted to business. An anniversary banquet will be held in the evening at which will be present managers, head office executives and industry guests.

Managers will atttend the golf championships.

Winter Garden To Open Again

Seating capacity of Loew's Winter Garden, Toronto, will be 1092 over much the same area formerly occupied by 1501 chairs when, following the removal of building restrictions, it will be altered and reopened to the public. The Winter Garden, located

(Continued on Page 9)

Snider Sole Owner

David W. Snider is now the sole owner of the Adelphi Theatre, Toronto. He recently bought the half interest of his former partner, W. R. Davis.

Rank Welcomed to USA

American filmdom recently honored J. Arthur Rank, leader of the British motion picture industry, at a dinner in the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel during his first visit to New York. The host was the Motion Picture Producers and Distributors Association and President Will Hays presided. Ranking executives of most of the big USA film companies attended.

Top photo—Left to right: J. Arthur Rank, Will H. Hays and Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam.

Lower photo—Left to right: Thomas J. Hargrave, president of Eastman Kodak; Nate J. Blumberg, president of Universal; Spyros P. Skouras, president of Twentieth Century-Fox; Mr. Rank; Mr. Hays; Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam; Nicholas M. Schenck, president of Loew's; and Barney Balaban, president of Paramount.

Important Shifts At Paramount

Three important changes in the management of Paramount's Canadian branches have been announced by Gordon Lightstone, Dominion general manager, following the resignation of Jack Hunter, Toronto branch manager, to assume charge of the theatres formerly operated by the late Morris Milligan.

Hunter will be succeeded as Toronto branch manager by Russell Simpson, who has been transferred from charge of the Vancouver branch. Bob Murphy, head booker of the Toronto branch, succeeds Simpson.

Of particular interest is the news that Syl Gunn, Western division booker for Famous Players at head office, Toronto, has resigned to become Paramount branch manager in Winnipeg. He replaces Dave M. Brickman, who

(Continued on Page 8)

Masters to Confab

Haskell Masters, Warner Brothers' Canadian head, will attend a three-day conference of district managers and home office executives in New York, June 26th-28th.

Special Press Book

Dewey Bloom of Regal has whipped up a special press supplement to "National Velvet," the Mickey Rooney-Elizabeth Taylor Technicolor starrer. It was felt that it was important to have ads that fit in with Canadian tastes in such matters.

THE NAUGHTY NINETIES
A SHOWBOAT LOAD OF LAUGHS AND LOVELIES WITH BUD ABBOTT AND LOU COSTELLO.
A UNIVERSAL PICTURE DISTRIBUTED BY EMPIRE-UNIVERSAL FILMS LIMITED.

BOB O'DONNELL

Head of the Variety Clubs, who addressed a dinner gathering in Toronto of those organizing a Variety Club in that city.

Newman Returns and Causes Reshuffle

Ed Newman, who enlisted in the RCAF in 1943 while manager of the Metropolitan, Winnipeg, has returned to that post. His return caused a change to their former posts of several managers who shifted when he enlisted.

Bill Novak leaves the Metropolitan for the Capitol; W. J. Proudlove goes from the Capitol to the Gaiety; and D. Roberts returns to the Tivoli from the Gaiety.

UA Top Spot to Chas. Chaplin

(Continued from Page 1)

given the management of the branch.

In January, 1941, he was transferred to the management of the Montreal branch and, when the Canadian division was left without a directing authority, it was predicted that he would be assigned that responsibility. Ed Schnitzer, UA home office representative from New York, has been in Canada studying Canadian operations and personnel since the passing of A. J. Jeffery.

Chaplin is the fourth to head UA's Canadian division in the last four years. In November, 1941, Haskell Masters resigned after 22 years with the company and was succeeded by Sam Glazer, Toronto branch manager. Shortly after Glazer switched jobs with David H. Coplan of Columbia.

In May, 1942, Coplan was made vice-president and a director of UA's Canadian company, then in 1944 was appointed managing director for Great Britain, succeeding E. H. (Teddy) Carr, who left to join the J. Arthur Rank interests.

The late A. J. Jeffery, Toronto branch manager, replaced Coplan and Al Iscove took temporary charge of Toronto territory until Douglas Rosen, transferred from Winnipeg, took over.

The new Canadian division manager of the United Artists

CHARLES CHAPLIN

Newly-appointed general manager of the Canadian division of United Artists. He was formerly Montreal branch manager.

was born in Toronto in 1910 and, among other schools, attended Harbord Collegiate. He married a Saint John girl and they have one child.

George Heiber joined the Toronto office as a clerk in 1937, went to Saint John as office manager a year later and became branch manager in 1941.

Sam Kunitzky joined UA a year ago as a salesman in Montreal and has served in several branches.

Canadian Scenes In the Movies

Edmonton, Alberta, recently got into the movies when Dave Oliver, newsreel cameraman took some shots of the downtown section of the city which will be used by MGM as background material for a film.

On loan from RKO, Oliver also made a film of the RCAF pararescue training school at Jasper, Alberta, for the National Film Board and took some shots in the Yellowknife district where he recorded scenes of Canada's latest gold rush.

If The Star Lost His Voice Tonight in YOUR Theatre?
What a catastrophe if the entire cast lost its voice in your theatre. It could happen, especially in these times. Your equipment needs the BEST technical service NOW—as it never needed it before.
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Head Office: 1620 Notre Dame Street West, Montreal
A National Theatre Service, such as maintained by Dominion Sound Equipments Limited, means—an organization with a specially trained personnel to provide regular and emergency technical service, equipment and supplies for theatres.

Golf Tournament Tickets Ready

(Continued from Page 1)

by Frank Cox of Dominion Sound, one of last year's competitors. Tickets are now in the hands of Dick Main, chairman of that committee, and may be obtained by mail or in person from the offices of the Canadian Film Weekly, 25 Dundas Square, sponsors of the event, or Len Bishop, Paul Maynard, Archie Laurie, Syl Gunn and Frank Vaughan.

Those outside Toronto may obtain tickets from Ken Craig, Tivoli, Hamilton, who is Ontario chairman, or by writing to this office or any member of the committee.

Previous record of the weather, checked from the books of Tom Daley, Imperial Theatre, secretary-treasurer of the tournament, shows rain on only one June 26th in the last nine years.

More than 50 managers of 20th Century Theatres, in Toronto at the annual convention of the company on June 25th and 26th, will attend the tournament. Enquiries are coming in fast and it is likely that some 250 will be present, as compared with 150 last year.

Several new events will be added, possibly a driving contest, so that all may participate in one way or another. The Kicker's Handicap will be used again to make things fair all around.

Up for competition again is the N. L. Nathanson challenge trophy for Low Gross Team Play, now held by Columbia; the Famous Players challenge trophy for Individual Low Gross, held by Martin Bloom of Premier Operating; and the Canadian Film Weekly challenge trophy for Individual Low Net, now held by Ed Smith, who won it as a Hanson entry. There will be dozens of other prizes.

Jack Arthur is acting as chairman of the tournament again and the committees are:

Grounds and Dinner: Martin Bloom and Al Troyer, co-chairmen; Harvey Harnick, Harry Lester, Arthur Milligan.

Prizes Committee: Ralph Dale, chairman; Archie Laurie, Walter Kennedy, Harry Lester, Len Bishop, Jay Smith, Clare Appel.

Entertainment: Archie Laurie, chairman; Hye Bossin, Walter Kennedy.

Ticket Committee: Dick Main, chairman; Len Bishop, Paul Maynard, Hye Bossin, Archie Laurie, Syl Gunn, Frank Vaughan. Others will be added.

Publicity Committee: Hye Bossin, Jay Smith.

Starter and Handicapper: Al Troyer.

Prices are $4.00 for golfers and $3.00 for non-golfers.

THE PICK OF THE PICTURES

Canadian Film Weekly
VOICE of the CANADIAN MOTION PICTURE INDUSTRY

REVIEWS INFORMATION RATINGS

Vol. 10, No. 25 REVIEWS FROM FILM DAILY, NEW YORK $2.00 Per Annum

Roughly Speaking

with Rosalind Russell, Jack Carson
Warner Bros. 128 Mins.

PLEASANT, HIGHLY ENTERTAINING PICTURE IS DOMINATED BY ROSALIND RUSSELL.

The autobiographical material in Louise Randall Pierson's book, "Roughly Speaking," is the basis of a warm, human film that plays on a variety of emotions. The production is certain to draw a favorable reaction from virtually every type of audience, dealing as it does with people easy to recognize and understand and with matters that have to do with family life.

The film, produced on an ample scale by Henry Blanke, employs comedy and drama to good purpose in a rambling and loosely woven screenplay devised by the author of the book herself. The story wanders aimlessly though entertainingly over a span of 40 years, beginning in 1902.

The film is for the most part an amiable account of the ups and downs of the Pierson family recorded in kaleidoscopic fashion. In a way the picture is a lesson in courage and faith since nothing that darkens her path dampens the spirit of our heroine. She keeps looking ahead and striving forward no matter what misfortune befalls her or her family.

Rosalind Russell is irrepressible as the central character. Hers is a performance that is pleasant if nothing else. Jack Carson gives a serio-comic portrayal as the man she's married to after divorcing Donald Woods. The picture boasts a large cast of players all but a handful of whom have brief roles.

Michael Curtiz has directed competently, emphasizing the lighter moments of the story.

CAST: Rosalind Russell, Jack Carson, Robert Hutton, Jean Sullivan, Alan Hale, Donald Woods, Andrea King, Ray Collins, Kathleen Lockhart, Cora Sue Collins, Ann Todd, Andy Clyde, Arthur Shields, Helene Thimig, Greta Granstedt, Ann Doran, Hobart Cavanaugh, Eily Malyon, Craig Stevens, John Alvin, Mary Servoss, Francis Pierlot, Manart Kippen, George Carleton, George Meader, Frank Puglia, John Qualen, Chester Clute, Irving Bacon, Barbara Brown, Sig Arno, Ann Lawrence.

CREDITS: Producer, Henry Blanke; Director, Michael Curtiz; Screenplay, Louise Randall Pierson; Based on book by Louise Randall Pierson; Cameraman, Joseph Walker; Art Director, Robert Haas; Musical Score, Max Steiner; Sound, Dolph Thomas; Film Editor, David Weisbart; Set Decorator, George James Hopkins; Special Effects, Roy Davidson, Hans Koenekamp; Musical Director, Leo F. Forbstein.

DIRECTION: Good. PHOTOGRAPHY: Good.

Belle of The Yukon

with Randolph Scott, Gypsy Rose Lee, Dinah Shore
RKO-International 84 Mins.

CONSISTENT ENTERTAINMENT IS OFFERED BY LAVISH TECHNICOLOR EYE-FILLER.

International Pictures' latest offering is a hybrid that scatters its appeal. While one can never be certain of its mood, the production, holding the eye with its Technicolor lavishness, is consistently entertaining. An important asset is the fine production accorded the film by William A. Seiter, who also functioned as director.

The film, apparently intended as a spoof on the Alaskan theme, offers such diversified talents as those of Randolph Scott, Gypsy Rose Lee, Dinah Shore, Bob Burns and Charles Winninger. It is on the potency of these names that rests much of the picture's allure. The picture is in the vein of a musical although with certain melodramatic aspects.

The lively story has Scott as a shady operator in the Yukon who is transformed into an honest man by Miss Lee, who, along with Miss Shore, entertains in a dance hall owned by him. The tale has been told with due regard for comedy.

Burns and Winninger, as a couple of Scott's stooges, furnish the comedy.

CAST: Randolph Scott, Gypsy Rose Lee, Dinah Shore, Bob Burns, Charles Winninger, William Marshall, Guinn "Big Boy" Williams, Robert Armstrong, Florence Bates, Edward Fielding.

CREDITS: Producer, William A. Seiter; Director, William A. Seiter; Screenplay, James Edward Grant; Based on story by Houston Branch; Cameraman, Ray Rennahan; Art Director, Perry Ferguson; Set Decorator, Julia Heron; Sound, Corson Jewett, Arthur Johns; Film Editor, Ernest Nims; Musical Score, Arthur Lange; Musical Director, Arthur Lange; Songs, Johnny Burke, Jimmy van Heusen; Dance Director, Don Loper.

DIRECTION, Good. PHOTOGRAPHY, Fine.

'Cisco Kid' Again

"Song of the Border," the next Monogram produced "Cisco Kid" film will star Duncan Renaldo and will be directed by Lambert Hillyer.

Tonight and Every Night

with Rita Hayworth
Columbia 92 Mins.

EYE-FLATTERING TECHNICOLOR MUSICAL ROMANCE SHOULD GIVE STRONG ACCOUNTING.

Handsomely produced by Victor Saville in Technicolor, "Tonight and Every Night" is a satisfying musical romance in which Rita Hayworth has ample opportunity to exercise every facet of her talent. The film presents its story so divertingly and in such attractive trappings that the familiarity of it all will prove practically no handicap to the enjoyment of the production.

The picture works out the backstage formula in an atmosphere of wartime. The action transpires mostly in a London theater which prides itself on never having missed a show despite the blitz. The film makes much of the show-must-go-on spirit.

The romance is between Miss Hayworth, an American, who is star of the show, and Lee Bowman, an RAF officer. There are the usual misunderstandings and the joys and pains that accompany love-making on the screen. Whatever doubts Miss Hayworth may have about the man she loves, are completely dispelled before the footage has run out.

The film boasts some beautiful production numbers and sympathetic direction by Saville.

CAST: Rita Hayworth, Janet Blair, Lee Bowman, Marc Platt, Leslie Brooks, Professor Lamberti, Dusty Anderson, Stephen Crane, Jim Bannon, Florence Bates, Ernest Cossart, Philip Merivale, Patrick O'Moore, Gavin Muir, Shelley Winter, Marilyn Johnson, Mildred Law, Elizabeth Inglise, Aminta Dyne, Joy Harrington, Ann Codee.

CREDITS: Producer, Victor Saville; Assistant to Producer, Norman Deming; Director, Victor Saville; Screenplay, Lester Samuels, Abem Finkel; Cameraman, Rudolph Mate; Film Editor, Viola Lawrence; Art Directors, Stephen Goosson, Rudolph Sternad, Lionel Banks; Set Director, Frank Tuttle; Special Effects, Lawrence W. Butler; Musical Director, M. W. Stoloff; Dance Directors, Jack Cole, Val Raset; Songs, Jule Styne, Sammy Cahn; Sound, Lambert Day, William Randall.

DIRECTION, Good. PHOTOGRAPHY, Excellent.

Patrick The Great

with Donald O'Connor, Peggy Ryan
Universal 88 Mins.

YOUNG O'CONNOR AGAIN SHINES IN MUSICAL COMEDY THAT SHOULD MAKE A HIT WITH ALL.

The last Donald O'Connor film to be made by Universal before the youthful star's induction into the Army, "Patrick the Great" is musical comedy entertainment certain to capture the public fancy in a big way. The picture is every bit as good, if not better, than any in which he has appeared, not one dull moment existing in the whole of it. For gay and spirited fun the production is unqualifiedly recommended to all and sundry.

O'Connor performs valiantly to keep the picture constantly diverting. He and Peggy Ryan romp through situations loaded with laughter. The two youngsters have every fellow player chipping in to the limit to make "Patrick the Great" as delightful a show as one could wish for.

The exuberant O'Connor sings, dances and clowns his way through a story about a father and son competing for the starring role in a big Broadway musical. Dad already is established as a star; son is just beginning to feel his way, although his talent is unquestioned. How pop clears the way for his offspring is engineered in most amusing fashion.

The swell Bertram Millhauser-Dorothy Bennett script which Frank Ryan directed with great competence has O'Connor dividing his interest between two gals, Miss Ryan and Frances Dee, but dad, Donald Cook, takes the latter off his hands to add to the romantic content of the production.

Howard Benedict capably discharged his duties as producer.

CAST: Donald O'Connor, Peggy Ryan, Frances Dee, Donald Cook, Eve Arden, Thomas Gomez, Gavin Muir, Andrew Tombes, Irving Bacon.

CREDITS: Producer, Howard Benedict; Director, Frank Ryan; Screenplay, Bertram Millhauser, Dorothy Bennett; Based on story by Jane Hall, Frederick and Ralph Block; Cameraman, Frank Redman; Musical Score, Hans J. Salter; Art Directors, John B. Goodman, Abraham Grossman; Sound Director, Bernard B. Brown; Set Decorators, Russell A. Gausman, E. R. Robinson; Film Editor, Ted J. Kent; Dance Directors, Louis Da Pron; Songs, Sidney Miller-Inez James, Charles Tobias-David Kapp.

DIRECTION, Good. PHOTOGRAPHY, Good.

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HYE BOSSIN, Managing Editor

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Film Weekly

• SECOND ANNUAL •

CANADIAN MOTION PICTURE CHAMPIONSHIP

GOLF TOURNAMENT

AND SUMMER OUTING

OAKDALE GOLF CLUB, TORONTO

Tuesday, June 26, COMMENCING AT 12.30 P.M.

FILM WEEKLY TROPHY
(1st Prize for Low Net Score)
NATHANSON TROPHY
(1st Prize Foursome Play)
FAMOUS PLAYERS TROPHY
(1st Prize Low Gross Score)
I. A. T. S. E. TROPHY
(1st Prize, Honeypot Contest)
30 Other Valuable Prizes

STEAK DINNER
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HONEYPOT PRIZES

GET TICKETS AT THE FILM WEEKLY OFFICE HERMANT BLDG. OR FROM THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS OF TICKET COMMITTEE

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——— and ———
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Film Weekly Golf Tournament

OAKDALE GOLF CLUB • TUESDAY, JUNE 26, 1945

Name of Entrant..... PLAYER - - $4.00 NON-PLAYER $3.00

Address..... Phone.....

PLEASE FILL IN SCORES OF LAST THREE GAMES _____ _____ _____

CLUB HANDICAP_____

NAME OF CLUB_____

MAKE CHEQUES PAYABLE TO TOM DALEY, Sec.-Treas.

Films and Food

While in Ottawa a while ago, I stopped in the Capitol Theatre, which has a modest entrance, and was struck with the main floor and mezzanine layout. It is an architect's dream come true, and Ottawa citizens long ago learned to make the most of this combination of beauty and utility. Although Ray Tubman was elsewhere, it being shortly after nine a.m., the place was busy.

A young French-Canadian artist of considerable distinction, Miss Raymonde Gravel, was preparing for an exhibition of her work and she and friends were busy hanging landscapes, still lifes and portraits for the eyes of patrons and visitors. I was told that an annual flower show is held at the Capitol, and it must present quite a treat when ready for the eyes and noses of stoppers-in and passers-by.

The most interesting and beneficial non-theatrical activity in connection with the Capitol is the tea room on the mezzanine operated by the Ottawa Women's Canadian Club, which serves luncheon and four o'clock tea to 10,000 monthly, a helpful enterprise, considering housing and eating conditions in the capital city.

Last year, a hard-at-work lady informed us, it earned $20,000, that bringing its profits in three years to over $50,000, a neat sum for soldier comforts.

Because of the arrangement it is hard to stop tea room patrons from strolling in to see the film. Asked what method was used to prevent this, the lady in charge replied, "We use the honor system."

The Capitol, it is obvious, has a high-class clientelle.

* * *

Basically Honest

Freddy Fink, manager of the Broadview, Toronto, discovered that someone had removed a brand new water tap from the men's room. So at an interesting part of the feature he ordered the film stopped and the house lights up.

Mounting the stage, he told the audience that the feature would not be continued until the tap was returned.

After a few minutes of silence a nine-year-old marched up to the stage and handed Fred the tap. The boy was carrying a monkey wrench and other tools.

Then the show went on.

Rita GI Favorite

Rita Hayworth has been named the favorite glamor girl of American soldiers in a "GI Oscar" poll conducted in eight theatres of operations around the world.

Hanson's Hamburger Haunt

THE sun came out of hiding — first time since Christmas," cracked Frank O'Byrne to Art Knowlton, both of whom harness it to their cameras — for the Hanson picnic at Charlie Mavety's Circle M Ranch for pseudo-cowboys. Charlie welcomed everyone in his cowtending costume, which he used to wear in Saskatchewan while the rest of us were romping in our Little Lord Fontleroy getups, and looked just as interesting as the lovely dude headquarters he wrapped around himself years ago.

Oscar Hanson went for cowboy costume too, he being additionally adorned with chef's hat and apron, and lingered lovingly over the outside fires on which he cooked food for the folks. No rango rider ever put on a more expert performance of bulldogging than Oscar as he seized the steers and pitched them on the fire. Fortunately Mrs. Hanson, who did the kitchen chores with will and skill, had seen to it that the bulls were in the form of hamburger.

Nobody had more fun than Oscar. Nobody ever does.

Mr. Hanson and Mr. Mavety got to feudin' early. But neither tried to see how fast he was on the draw. The fire was also backward in its draw. That's what caused the feud, which ended after some derogatory words bit into the dust at the feet of both feudists. "I am in dire need of dry kindlin'," Oscar had drawled reflecting on Mavety's hospitality. His face showing nothing but quiet determination and without a false move, Charlie made his return shot. "You are just a poor fire maker, that's all," he said with a steely glint in his eye. There was no bloodshed, except from the hamburgers awaiting Hanson's handling, mainly because a smile followed Charlie's return shot.

OF special interest was Mavety's beautiful prize Pinto, Kopo, which he rode. Charlie refused an offer to play centre on Kopo for Microfilm, which took a beating from Monogram through bad fielding, thus losing the trophy made of a film can, a beverage bottle, and a one-handled loving cup. This beribboned bit of metallic beauty was presented to Florence Yetman, captain, by Oscar Hanson. Kopo is a smart animal, clopping out his age and other statistics, throwing kisses and even delivering them in person, Dorothy Hector, secretary to Foto Nite's Lou Davidson, getting an oversize one direct.

THE three Johnston Sisters of London, Ontario, a cowgirl singing trio, entertained all over the place, leading several singsongs. This sort of thing has a moth-to-the-flame effect on the old-timers, many of whom served terms in the early days as illustrated slide accompaniers and musical comedy choristers. Hanson, unable to resist the siren song, abandoned the hamburger crematory long enough to go all out on "The Colse of an Aching Heart."

Then there was Earl Armstrong, who let go with opera and operetta numbers with such vigor that he cracked all the moonshine jugs in all the stills in all the hills for miles around. He was as enraptured in his own renditions as a spear-carrying super who wanted to sing a lead just once in his life and only got a chance at a time like this. It can be said of both Oscar and Earl that the vocal chords are willing but the diaphram is weak.

TOMMY TEMPLETON of Mavety's service was on hand, getting around with the aid of a cane. Just back from overseas, his jeep straddled a land mine and Tommy considers himself lucky . . . George Oullahan emceed the presentation of prizes during the dance and did his prize trick of pulling a shirt right off a man's body with coat and vest on. He did it okay with George Downard but failed with Ted Jones. He yanked Ted so hard from the back of the neck in his attempt that everyone expected to see him sitting there just in his bones. Looked like a doublecross . . . Harry Kaufman romped all day in double-breasted executive dress, his only concession to the spirit of the occasion being trousers rolled up a couple of inches . . . Harold Kaye and others will sit uncertainly for a while, they having bounced backs with some of Circle M's most active equine inhabitants.

Observanda

Jack (Scotty) Johnston, formerly of Filmart and now of Vancouver, was around saying hello. Scotty left here to enter the restaurant business and now owns Purdy's, an ace eatery with a staff of more than 60. . . Ben Cronk has been a busy citizen of late, between serving on juries and doing election duties. . . Arthur Hirsch is getting over his recent illness and it is hoped that he will be able to accept Jack Arthur's invitation to take part in the golf tournament. . . Mayor Saunders of Toronto decided that the film wasn't the way to get folks to make room in their homes for those who are houseless. "I guess I'm not photogenic," he said. "Too true," volunteered Con. McCallum. "You looked like Louie the Lug." . . . Murray Pearl has left Regal to work for Confederation Life. . . Bill Covert, IATSE Canadian organizer, was one of the five assigned by his international to work on the settlement of the Hollywood strike. . . Wolfe Cohen was in town telling about Australia and Dave Coplan is home too. . . Ron McClelland's Circus Sweep, an outsider, came second to Hemfox for the $5,000 handicap at the Long Branch meet, paying $28.30. The only show business lad who had Circus Sweep that I know about was Johnny Rolston, 20th Century messenger, who bet the horse where it landed—second. . . Speaking of hurrying hides, Alec Christie, new operator of Montgomery's Hermant Building restaurant, is the owner of Tinted Chick.

* * *

It Isn't True

Someone tried to tell me that during a recent game of golf Raoul Auerbach, ready to tee off on a 150-yard hole, said: "I really shouldn't use a driver for this. It's too easy. A mashie is good enough."

He swung and the ball dribbled off the tee amid a cloud of dirt and grass.

"Now," cracked the caddie, "for a helluva long putt."

Miss Tyers Manages Hume, Burlington

Management of the Hume Theatre, Burlington, Ontario, has been taken over by Miss Tyers, who was formerly connected with the Savoy Theatre, Hamilton.

"Dunc" Campbell, who was in charge of the Hume for the past few weeks, left to assume management of the Elmhurst Theatre at London, Ontario.

Both houses are units of Theatre Amusement Company, formerly known as the Fingold circuit.

ROBERT YOUNG · LARAINE DAY

IN

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with

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and Introducing

BILL WILLIAMS

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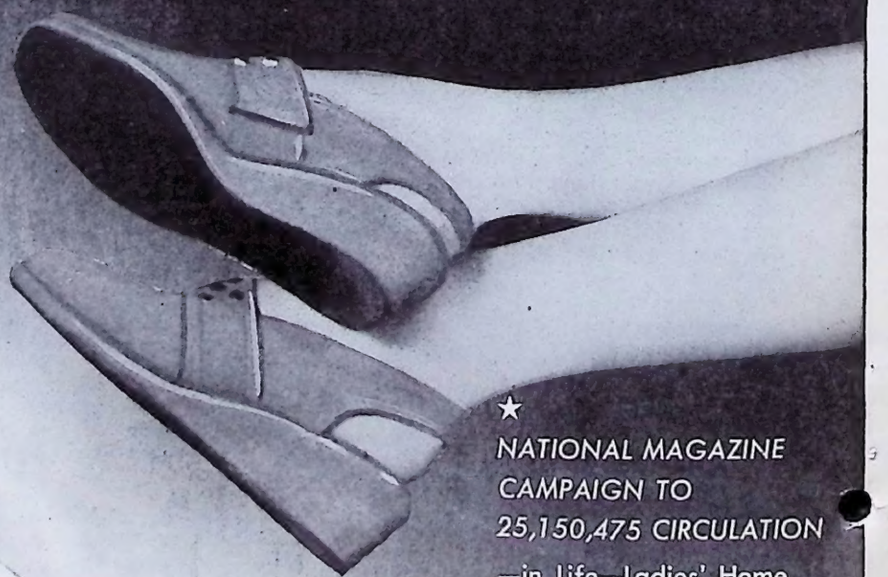

★

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Home from the wars... Oh Boy!

RKO's

Action on the furlough front . . . in radiant romantic hit . . . between the lovely who believes wooings mean weddings, and the pilot who thinks any girl is just a date! . . . Stimulating spice and sparkle headed for top box-office money!

RKO RADIO PICTURES

GORDON LIGHTSTONE

Paramount's Canadian general manager, who will preside over the 1945-46 Dominion convention of the company, to be held in Montreal on June 27th and 28th.

Hope's Next Pic

Bob Hope will star in Paramount's "Monsieur Beaucaire," the famous Booth Tarkington story which Rudolph Valentino did 20 years ago.

'Amerk Guerillas'

Fred MacMurray and William Bendix will have starring roles in the 20th-Fox film "American Guerillas in the Philippines."

20% Fed Impost Stays Right On

There is no likelihood of elimination or reduction of the 20 per cent amusement tax now or in the near future, it was learned in Ottawa, despite the fact that cessation of hostilities in Europe has brought revision of a number of imposts. Other taxes, as yet unrevised, will be lowered or crossed off when studies are completed.

An official of the Treasury Department said that careful examination of the wartime tax structure, inspired by Finance Minister J. L. Ilsley, had led to the revisions but the possibility of removing or changing the amusement tax had not been discussed.

The 20 per cent federal amusement tax, levied first on motion pictures and begun in May, 1941, has yielded some $20 millions, a rough estimate.

It was considered when the tax was inaugurated that it was discriminatory in that it was confined to motion picture theatres and it was protested vigorously. In July, 1941, the tax was extended to include other forms of amusement, such as sporting events and horse racing.

Important Shifts At Paramount

(Continued from Page 1)

has been transferred to Toronto in another capacity.

Syl Gunn, born in Winnipeg, entered theatre business in 1927 as an usher in the Capitol Theatre of that city, being subsequently made head usher, then manager. He resigned to manage one of the three theatres owned in Winnipeg by Universal, then became supervisor of the group.

In 1935 Gunn returned to Famous Players as manager of the Royal, Fort William, and shortly after went to the circuit's Winnipeg office as booker, from which post he was loaned to Western Theatres as booker. In 1940 he became manager of the Metropolitan, Winnipeg, and in 1941 came to Toronto as Western division booker.

His appointment becomes effective on June 23rd.

Russell Simpson, New Toronto branch manager, joined Paramount in January, 1920, as ad sales manager of the Winnipeg office, becoming a booker in 1930 and a salesman in 1937. In October, 1940, he was made assistant to the late William Hansher, Vancouver manager, and assumed charge during the latter's illness. He was appointed to management of the Vancouver branch when Mr. Hansher passed on.

Bob Murphy, Simpson's successor, joined Paramount's Toronto booking department in 1933 and became head booker in 1939.

Each of those affected by the changes will attend the Paramount Canadian sales convention, to be held in Montreal on June 27th and 28th, in his new capacity.

Charles M. Reagan, vice-president in charge of distribution, will discuss product and general matters and Gordon Lightstone will make known the company's Dominion sales policy to managers and executives.

SYL GUNN

Who has resigned as Western division booker for Famous Players to assume management of the Winnipeg branch office of Paramount.

Lowe Plays Magic'n

Edmund Lowe will play a magician and hypnotist in the leading role in "Gregory," a murder mystery drama. This will be the first picture to be produced by Louis Berkoff for Monogram release. It will be directed by Phil Rosen.

Denies Clime NG For Can. Prod'n

The statement of Ross McLean, deputy national film commissioner, to a representative of the Hollywood Reporter, that "Climatic conditions are a bar to production in Canada" brought disagreement from D. A. McLean of Vancouver, president of International Artists' Film Corporation Ltd.

States D. A. McLean:

"Mr. Ross McLean of the National Film Board, during his stay in San Francisco, to a representative of the Hollywood Reporter, regarding motion picture production in Canada, stated that due to climatic conditions in Canada motion pictures cannot be produced. I find it very amusing that Ross McLean would make such a statement.

"I would like to point out that several pictures have been made across Canada by the National Film Board, and several major companies have made pictures on Vancouver Island. The summer of '44 'Son of Lassie' was produced in Victoria. During the early years of the depression—1932—several productions were made in Victoria and released through companies in Hollywood.

"We in the western part of Canada would like the rest of the world to know that the climatic conditions here are very similar to Washington, Oregon and northern California, and ideal for motion picture production, for we have here scenery settings suitable for almost any type of picture — 'natural settings' of any part of the world."

JACK HUNTER

After 24 years with Paramount, Jack Hunter, Toronto branch manager has resigned to assume the management of the three Hamilton, Ontario, theatres formerly operated by the late Morris Milligan.

Cn'dn Background For Para 2-Reeler

"Kid Sister," a Paramount Technicolor Musical Parade short about to go into production, has a colorful Canadian background. Bob Graham, Dorothy Porter and Miriam Franklin will form a starring trio in this two-reeler which will have George Templeton as director-producer.

United Artists Board Re-elected

All the officers of United Artists Corporation were re-elected for the coming year at a recent meeting of the corporation's board of directors.

Edward C. Raftery was returned to office as president along with Gradwell L. Sears as vice-president in charge of distribution and George L. Bagnall as vice-president in charge of production. Also re-elected were: Harry J. Muller, treasurer; Lloyd Wright, secretary; Charles E. Millikan, Paul D. O'Brien, Harry D. Buckley and Harry J. Muller, assistant secretaries; and Herbert A. Weimar, assistant treasurer.

At the stockholders meeting held immediately before the directors meeting, the following were elected directors of the company for the ensuing year: Edward C. Raftery, Franklin Cole, Isaac A. Pennypacker, Neil F. Agnew, Milton A. Kramer, Phillip F. Siff, Sydney Chaplin, E. Claude Mills and Rex Dennant.

Shea's Victoria Awaits Permit

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The number of seats in the house, 1995, is spread over the orchestra and the first and second balconies. The top balcony will not be used.

Minor alterations will be made and some painting done but, except for the replacement of the silent projection equipment with that of modern sound machinery, the house will remain generally as is. The house was given some renovation a while back when it was required for presentation of the army and other shows. Plans for alterations have been approved by the provincial Theatre Inspection Branch.

Chief purpose of the reopening is to help provide playing time for Famous Players first-runs, the facilities of the Tivoli, Shea's and Imperial not being ample enough in the face of strong business and long runs. It is presumed that this situation will continue when hostilities with Japan are concluded.

Shea's Victoria was opened by the late Jerry Shea in September, 1910, as a two-a-day vaudeville house. Shea closed his Yonge street house and moved his activities to the new and larger theatre. With vaudeville declining, the Victoria was closed on May 24, the usual summer closing date, and not reopened in the fall. The vaudeville was moved to Shea's Hippodrome, built in 1914, when it reopened in September for the new season. Shea's, renovated several years ago, is now a first-run house playing top pictures.

The Kinetograph was the first projection machine installed in the Victoria, showing silent short subjects as part of the program. Talkies were experimented with but dropped. The house has been used occasionally for amateur and other stage productions, as well as public meetings.

Twenty Years at WB

Albert S. Howson, Warner Brothers' director of censorship and scenario editor, recently completed 20 years with the company.

Boyer, Bacall Star In Warner Bros. Pic

Charles Boyer and Lauren Bacall will star in the Warner Brothers picture, "Confidential Agent," which will be directed by Herman Shumlin and produced by Robert Buckner.

Katina Paxinou will play one of the top supporting roles in the picture, her first role since winning the academy award in "For Whom the Bell Tolls."

At the Hanson Picnic

Here is a scene at the picnic of the Hanson enterprises, held at Charlie Mavety's Circle M Ranch at Kleinburg, Ontario. In the foreground, in chef's rigging, is Oscar Hanson. Next to him is Mrs. Hanson, seen talking with Bill Bailey, who recently completed 50 years in theatre business, then retired.

Crosby Goals 'Em In Montreal Stop

Bing Crosby, Bob Hope's fellow-star and friendly enemy at Paramount, drew mobs of admirers wherever he showed up in Montreal during his recent visit to the Canadian Professional Golfers Open Tournament, a $10,000 competition. More than 8,000 spectators watched the Academy Award winner play unseriously and put on an impromptu concert on the green.

Crosbys' arrival at the Islemere Golf Club, where the tournament took place, was heralded by a squadron of motorcycle cops and a mixed shrieking of women and sirens but even with police protection he still managed to lose part of his shirt. He told the women, "It's all right girls . . . I'm not Sinatra," and took it all in his stride.

He was not formally entered in the tournament but a large gallery followed him as he went around the course.

Prior to his appearance at the golf club Crosby visited and entertained veterans at the Queen Mary Road Military Hospital and the Saraguay Convalescent's Hospital.

On his arrival at Montreal's Windsor Station, Crosby was greeted with the usual reception but he departed in greater seclusion after being entertained by Emile Collette, president of the Canadian Professional Golfers Association, at a small private party in the Royal Suite of the Mount Royal Hotel.

Crawley Heads Film Society

F. R. Crawley was elected president of the National Film Society, Ottawa branch, at the annual meeting of the organization in the lecture hall, National Museum, Ottawa. Crawley succeeds Lieut.-Col. W. A. Steel, who served two seasons as president.

Other officers elected were: secretary, A. J. Thomas; treasurer, J. P. Barwick; directors, Mrs. E. A. Davis, Miss K. M. Fenwick, Mrs. F. R. Crawley, H. O. McCurry, E. W. Harrold, Maj. Paul Belcourt, J. P. Labelle, KC, Roby Kid, Lieut.-Col. Steel; Film Survey group directors, Stanley G. Hawes, Ernst Borneman, Graham McInnes, Guy Glover; auditor, P. F. D. Ellis.

In his presidential report, Col. Steel spoke of the steady progress that had been made during the year by both the regular branch and the Film Survey group. The combined membership was in the neighborhood of 750, with the group doubling its membership over last year.

Votes of thanks were passed to the Ottawa newspapers, O. J. Silverthorne of the Ontario Motion Picture Censorship Branch, and the National Film Board.

'Movieland Magic'

Warner Brothers will soon produce "Movieland Magic," a Technicolor short subject telling the behind-the-scenes story of motion picture production.

Winter Garden To Open Again

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in the top storey of the building which houses the Loew's lower Yonge street theatre, has been closed for 15 years. The main theatre has never ceased operation since it was opened on December 16th, 1913, and the Winter Garden was ready for business about a year later.

Architectural plans, approved by the Theatre inspection Branch of Ontario Treasury Department, call for alteration of the interior to a simple modern design. The former appearance of the auditorium was rustic, with leaves decorating the pillars and hanging from a wire mesh ceiling.

The sacrifice of more than 400 seats will allow those used to be wider and provide more leg room. Washrooms will be installed for both sexes and these will be on different sides of the theatre.

The three elevators which serviced the old Winter Garden will be put to use again and the Victoria street exit, now opened only at the conclusion of the theatre day, will be utilized. The inside boxoffice, unused for many years will be reopened. The stage on which the vaudeville performances of the main auditorium were repeated in other days will be retained.

New production equipment will be installed, the present machinery having been used for silent pictures. A poster still on display in the Winter Garden gives the name of the last film shown there —"The Temptress," with Norma Shearer.

Policy of the house will be based on product conditions at the time of its opening. In some cases the same picture may be used in both auditoriums, in others double bills will be staggered. It is a certainty that roadshow pictures, offered on a reserved seat basis when necessary, will occupy the screen part of the time. The theatre will help relieve the product jam that has endured in downtown houses for the past few years.

Jules Bernstein is still manager of the house and Jack Clarke assistant manager. Both have occupied their posts for many years.

New Monogram Post Goes to Broidy

Monogram Pictures' board of directors, appointed Steve Broidy to the new post of executive vice-president in charge of operations, at their Chicago confab.

The new post is in addition to Broidy's duties as general sales manager.

Simon Speaks Right Out

Question of Sunday Charity Shows Brings Vigorous Defence from Leading Windsor Showman

MOST theatre managers know that from-frying-pan-to-fire feeling that comes with either permission to hold a Sunday charity show in the theatre or a refusal. Such requests usually come from the community's leading citizens and objections are made by the clergy. The wishes of both are worthy of respect.

In the city of Windsor, Ontario, Simon Meretsky, managing director of Windsor Paramount Theatres, has sponsored Sunday evening charity shows on occasion for troop comfort and other causes. These, joined in by leading entertainers appearing in Detroit, have won the support of the entire community.

Not so long ago the very active Rev. George G. Webber, general secretary of the Lord's Day Alliance, criticized the shows. Meretsky, famed in the industry for his verbal vigor, replied in interesting fashion by letter. Here is his answer, as it appeared in the Windsor Daily Star:

"I have received your letter of May 21 and I am somewhat surprised that you bring the matter of cost into your letter.

"Let me point out to you, sir, that when the government rents the theatre from us we charge $650 per day, and they have rented it on several occasions during the war for the Army Show and the Navy Show.

"And if it wasn't for charity, nobody would get the theatre from me regardless of how much they paid. How would you like me to tell you, Mr. Webber, that from every $100 we get for the use of the theatre, the government gets $84, and all we have left is $16.

"Do you think I can keep the theatre open, use up one and a half or two tons of coal, pay $11 for cleaning, water, and light, wear and tear—don't you think I am actually out all the money? The reason the government gets $84 is that we are in the excess profits bracket and every dollar we make over what we made in the period from 1936-39 goes to the government, so that ought to convince you that at no time is Simon Meretsky trying to make any money when he rents the theatre.

SIMON MERETSKY

"Mr. Webber, you don't belong to a union. Every time the theatre is open for some purpose, the union demands that a stage hand be there, whether he works one hour, two hours or three hours.

"And, Mr. Webber, the manager has to be on the job to see that the theatre is in shape at 9 o'clock. He has to be there at 6 o'clock to turn on the lights, and he has to be there at 8.30 o'clock to open the doors to let the people in after church. Nothing is ever allowed to start before 8.30, so that nothing will interfere with the churches.

Believes In Humanity

"If any man believes in God, and in the principles of humanity, Simon Meretsky is one. The synagogue we have in our town stands me tens of thousands of dollars of my own money to see it through. And I have helped every denomination there is in the community, regardless of creed, color or race.

"The reason I am writing you this is that you can write to any pastor, whether he be Catholic, Anglican, Baptist, Presbyterian or United Church, and ask them who Simon Meretsky is—his character and his reputation, and they will tell you that at no time is it a matter of making money when I give the theatre.

"The clergy is fighting on all battlefields. The rabbis are fighting on Saturday, the Catholics and Protestants are fighting on Sundays, for freedom and liberty, so that people may enjoy future living without being murdered.

"If I can help the starving Poles, the starving Chinese, the starving Russians, the starving Greeks and the starving Slovaks, I certainly will help them.

"And I do think that if the clergy would encourage this across the country of Canada, and have these benefits on Sunday nights after church is out, the gospel would do more for humanity than ever.

"At one gathering in the Capitol and Palace theatres, on a Sunday night, I got up and spoke and we raised $8,000 from the audience in the two theatres. I made a plea. I did everything except cry. This was the Russian relief.

"Our quota in Windsor for the Overseas Smokes Fund is $40,000 and some of the affairs have turned their entire proceeds over to this worthy cause.

Doing As Much As Clergy

"Aren't our boys to be considered? Can't they smoke a cigaret for what they are doing for us? I honestly think, Rev. Webber, that I am doing as much good as any clergy is doing from the pulpit, for the wonderful cause our boys are fighting for—freedom and liberty.

"Thank God we are rid of that ignoramus Mussolini and that idiot Hitler. We have two down and one to go. And with the help of the Almighty God we will get rid of Tojo. So many of our brilliant men are making the supreme sacrifice to fight such ignorant savages. The Lord will be with us and it won't be long before it is over. But we will have a big job on our hands to help those countries in the future. We may have to do a lot more for them than we are doing now."

G. Weltner Named Hicks' Successor

George Weltner has been named successor to the late John W. Hicks, Jr., as president of Paramount International Films, Incorporated, overseas distributor of Paramount pictures. Executive assistant to Hicks since 1934, Weltner served as vice-president and member of the board of directors of Paramount's overseas subsidiary since it was formed in 1944.

He first came to Paramount in 1922 as a student trainee immediately after his graduation from Columbia University.

No one has as yet been appointed to replace Hicks as a director of Famous Players Canadian Corporation.

Crowd Catching Stunt

Students of the Ontario College of Art competed for three prizes offered to those who created the most interesting and technically skilfull impressions of MGM's "The Picture of Dorian Gray." Thousands saw them during the time they worked in Eaton's College Street store in Toronto, many being attracted by the ads in the store's daily newspaper page. Dewey Bloom of MGM and Jack Clarke of Loew's put it over.

First prize was a $50 Victory Bond, the second $15 in War Savings Certificates and the third $10 in the same medium. Dewey Bloom promoted for Regal and MGM.

RKO Earnings Down in 1944

Net earnings of Radio-Keith-Orpheum Corporation dropped by more than $1.75 millions in 1944 according to the figures revealed in the annual report. Attributed to the operations of RKO-Radio Pictures, the producing and distributing subsidiary, net profit dropped from $6,964,004 in 1943 to $5,206,378 for the year ended December 31, 1944, after all charges and taxes were deducted.

Explaining the falling off in profits, N. Peter Rathvon, RKO president, said in the annual statement that "no single picture produced in 1944 showed as good results as several made in 1943 at a relatively low cost."

RKO's 'China Sky' Exciting

THE screen version of Pearl S. Buck's novel is a vivid drama of an American hospital in a Chinese village. The Japs keep after it with bombers because it is in the way of a target but the Chinese and Americans are heroically stubborn.

Randolph Scott, Ruth Warrick and Ellen Drew carry on a triangular love affair, well-woven into the film's theme and action.

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IT'S THE NAME!
of the West's most notorious town . . . and how it was tamed by the rippling charms of a woman of fire and fame!
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"SALOME, Where She Danced"
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IT'S THE PICTURE!
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